

March 6, 2014

Commerce Committee
State of Connecticut

Chairman LeBeau, Chairman Perone and members of the Commerce Committee; my name is Terry Smith and I am President of the Haddam Historical Society (HHS) and Treasurer of the Connecticut Spring Antiques Show (CSAS). With me is Emily Smith, Connecticut Spring Antiques Show committee member. We are here to support Senate Bill 77, An Act Appropriating Funds for the Haddam Historical Society. SB 77 would give the HHS one-time, transitional funding to assist us in addressing and absorbing the higher cost associated with moving the Connecticut Spring Antiques Show back to the State Armory in Hartford. I have provided you with written copies of my remarks along with a perspective of our Society, two Hartford Courant editorials and a Hartford Courant front page article about last year's antique show, and a brochure about our upcoming 2014 show.

In 1973 the Haddam Historical Society hosted its first antiques show in Haddam. Over the ensuing 41 years, as the show has grown in size and reputation it has become known as the "Grand Dame" of New England antiques shows and is one of the country's most important venues of early American furniture and accessories. The Spring antiques show now represents the Society's largest source of funds and supplies over one-half of our operating income. This benefits not only the Haddam Historical Society but also our regional school district through enhanced historical-based programming; Connecticut residents; and the City of Hartford and State of Connecticut through increased sales tax revenue, restaurant and hotel income and other tourist-related benefits.

Last year, the City of Hartford, Division of Economic Development, performed an economic impact analysis of the regional benefits resulting from the Connecticut Spring Antiques Show. The analysis showed that the "...off-site commercial activity is estimated to be between \$81,000– \$324,000" on an annual basis."

For 25 years the State Armory in Hartford was the home to the spring antiques show. The armory is truly one of Connecticut's architectural landmarks and it set the stage every year for a remarkable event. Following the events of September 11, 2001, the State Armory was no longer available for the show. The Historical Society moved the show to the Connecticut Expo Center but in 2012, after the Center was sold, our contract was cancelled forcing us to move the event out-of-state. Everyone involved agreed that the show needed to return to Connecticut.

In 2013 every effort was made to not only return the show to Connecticut but also to return it to the State Armory to commemorate our 40th anniversary. With much appreciated help from Governor Malloy's office, former Governor Weicker and his wife Claudia, and the Department of Homeland Security and General Martin of the Connecticut Military Department, we were given permission to use the State Armory for the 2013 Connecticut Spring Antiques Show.

The only issue with returning to the Armory was the cost. The venue-related costs are close to three times that of the out-of-state facility we used in 2012. The Society, as well as our antique dealers and the show attendees love having the show at the State Armory and we hope to remain there for many years. Unfortunately, the cost significantly impacts our operating budget. S.B. 77 seeks to provide the Historical Society with financial assistance in order to allow it to adjust to the new cost structure and allow it work for us.

The mission of the Haddam Historical Society is to preserve, collect, interpret and promote the history and heritage of Haddam for present and future generations. We fulfill this goal by offering adult and children education programs and by maintaining the largest collections of artifacts, pictures, documents of Haddam related history. We have recently prepared comprehensive traveling displays celebrating the 350th anniversary of the settlement of Haddam and the 100th anniversary of the Swing Bridge between East Haddam and Haddam. We continue to sponsor town chats to present and record our town's oral history. In 2013 we presented our first annual high school scholarship to a Region 17 graduating senior.

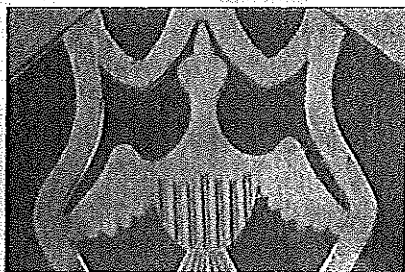
The education program is particularly robust in that we provide historical based programs that are aligned with the Regional 17 school district's curriculum and also reaches out to home school children and scouting organizations. These programs are presented to 3rd and 5th grade students and also utilize a summer based camp to education our children in our Connecticut heritage. We have recently had to discontinue a 2nd and 4th grade program due to lack of available funding.

This year the Haddam Historical Society will be presenting a new series of five lectures entitled "History and Human Rights Perspectives on Connecticut: Sagas, Scandals, Spirits and Slavery." This series will showcase new and recent works of nonfiction of particular local relevance to all Connecticut residents. To provide this and other programs, we rely on our HHS supporters and friends and fundraising activities.

With the CSAS being the major source of our income, we are asking for time to off-set the higher show operating cost. This will permit us to continue funding our educational and collection programs that serve Haddam, Regional School District 17 and Connecticut.

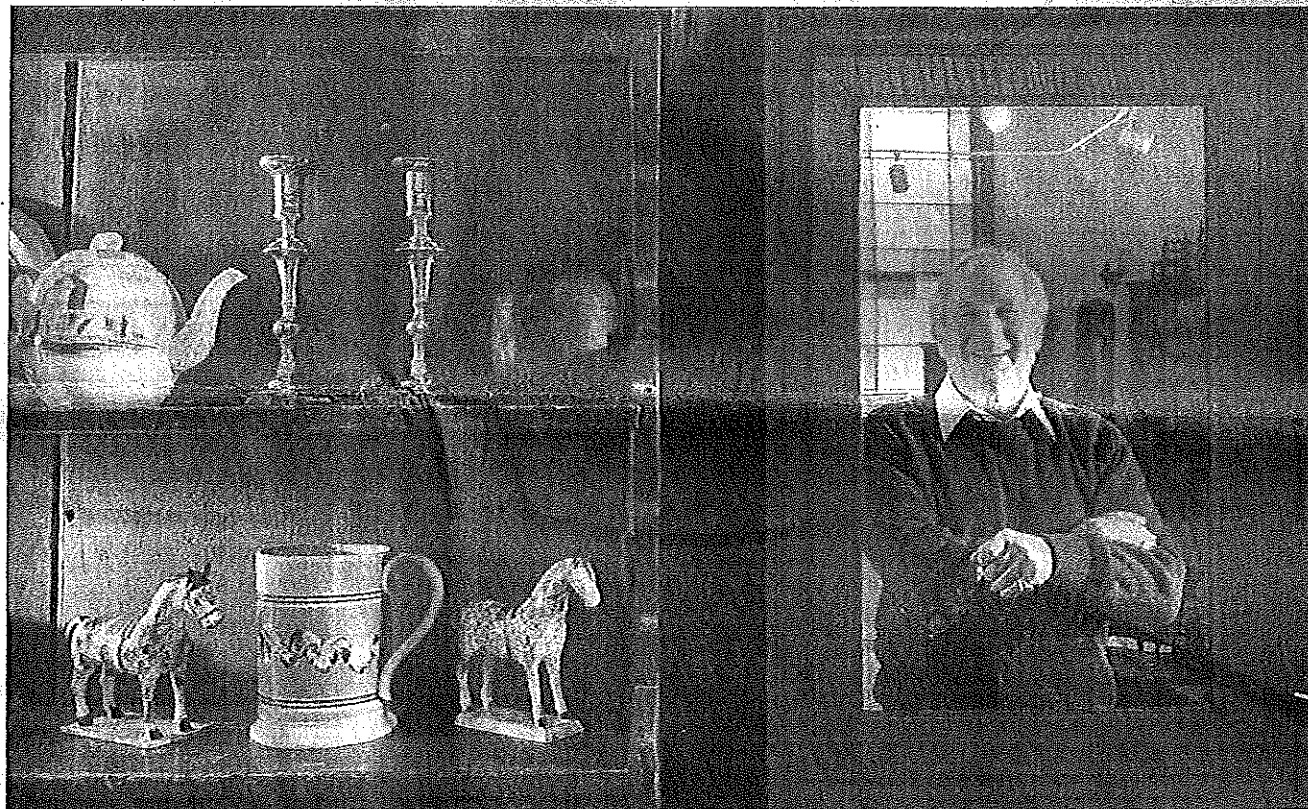
I have included a brochure in your material about the March 22/23, 2014 show and we hope you take advantage to visit one the finest New England Antiques Shows where you can see thousands of items and examples of early American furniture, porcelain, pottery, fine art and more, and you can 'Buy American'.

Thank you for your time and we will be happy to answer any questions.

**40TH SEASON**

The Connecticut Spring Antiques Show returns to its Hartford home at the State Armory this weekend

SOMETHING OLD



MARK MIRKO | MMIRKO@COURANT.COM

ARTHUR LIVERANT, of Nathan Liverant And Son in Colchester, has exhibited antiques at the Connecticut Spring Antiques Show for the past 40 years. He will give a talk, "40 Years of the Connecticut Spring Antiques Show," at 2 p.m. Saturday. At top, a detail of a Federal cherry side chair.

By **ERIK HESSELBERG** | Special to The Courant

HARTFORD — For Frances Phipps, a Tiffany lamp was not an antique. That was reserved for "furnishings made or imported for use in this country between 1640 and 1840," according to Phipps' exhaustive work on the subject, "The Collector's Complete Dictionary of American Antiques."

While this may disappoint fans of "Antiques Roadshow," that standard is the guiding principle of this weekend's Connecticut Spring Antiques Show, the prestigious event Phipps started in 1973 with Hartford antiques maven the late Betty Forbes.

"I'm not going to say you'll find nothing in the show that's after 1840," said Lisa Malloy, president of the

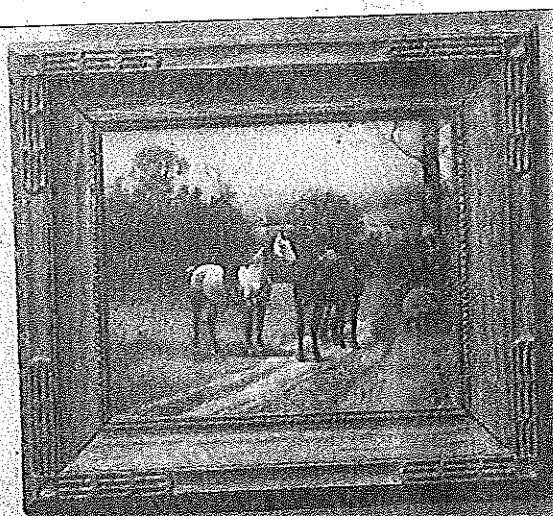
Haddam Historical Society, the show's beneficiary. "There are some accessories like fine art produced after that date. But, certainly, with furniture we really do try to adhere to this standard."

The Connecticut Spring Antiques Show marks its 40th season Saturday

ANTIQUES, A4



CLOE POISSON | CPOISSON@COURANT.COM



CLOE POISSON | CPOISSON@COURANT.COM

Antiques

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and Sunday with a return to its original home, the fortress-like Connecticut State Armory on Broad Street in Hartford. The armory had been largely off-limits to the public since the Sept. 11 attacks of 2001, but discussions with Gov. Dannel P. Malloy last year paved the way for antiques show's return.

The two-day event features 65 dealers from the Northeast displaying museum-quality early American furniture, ceramics, silver, paintings, prints and textiles. Exhibitors set up in armory's vast drill shed, showing their wares in room-like settings. Some pieces have been known to sell for \$100,000, but organizers say there are more modestly priced items. There will be booth talks by decorative arts expert Bill Hosley and Connecticut antiques dealer Arthur Liverant.

Liverant, owner of Nathan Liverant and Son, of Colchester, has been an exhibitor since the show's beginning four decades ago.

"Antiques shows have become a little more eclectic to appeal to broader tastes," he said. "The spring antiques show has remained relatively pure and true to its beginnings. I think that's a tribute to Frances Phipps."

Phipps, in this case, means nothing made before the advent of mass production, that is, furniture crafted largely by hand, during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. This might include austere furnishings from the Pilgrim years, along with stately Queen Anne, Federal and Empire styles. Imported English and French furnishings are also allowed, as they would have been common in any fashionable New England residence, along with oriental luxuries like Chinese porcelain, brought to this country aboard clipper ships during the famous China trade.

Hepplewhite to consort with Victorian.

Visitors to the 1955 fall show would see, in addition to staid Queen Anne and Federal furnishings, overwrought Victorian sofas, dolls, drapery, weather vanes, books, barn doors, wicker chairs, playing cards, gilt eagles, wooden horses and antique weapons. There was even a life-size statue of the Connecticut abolitionist minister Henry Ward Beecher.

The Antiquarian and Landmarks show was so popular that Phipps saw an opportunity to capitalize on its success, adding a second show in the spring. In this case, the beneficiary would be her beloved Haddam Historical Society, where Phipps was raising money to restore the society's gem, the Georgian-Colonial Thankful Arnold House.

Now in full command, Phipps and Forbes decided to raise the bar, permitting only pre-1840s furnishings at the new spring show. Phipps was unyielding, and friends remember her stalking the exhibit hall in the days before the show to sniff out offenders.

"If Frances found something she believed did not conform, it had to go," said Malloy, of the Haddam Historical Society. "She had high standards." But there were lighter moments, as in the evenings when show organizers and dealers got together to exchange gossip over drinks and caviar.

"Frances was very influential in those years and we courted her opinion," said Hosley, curator at the Athenaeum from 1980 to 1997. "I had great respect for her because of her thorough knowledge of Americana. She really knew the details."

After Phipps' death, the Hartford show weathered some difficult years, losing its home after the armory was ruled off-limits after 9/11. For 10 years, the show was held at the Connecticut Expo Center, until that venue closed in 2011. Reluctantly, in 2012, organizers moved across the border to the



COURTESY OF HADDAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ITEMS at the show: Top, "The Piper," white marble, by C.B. Ives, from the mid-19th century; center, a clay folk art head; bottom, a painting by Hannah Fairfield.

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Antique dealer Arthur Liverant,
owner of Nathan Liverant and Son in Colchester

Hosley, longtime curator of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art's American Decorative Arts collection, and now a private consultant, said Phipps (who died in 1986 at 62) was uncompromising when it came to American antiques.

"Frances was dogmatic and opinionated," Hosley said. "Of course, like many of her generation, she abhorred Victorian. But she had a fine business sense and she really knew her stuff."

Phipps, a founding member of the Haddam society, where she lived for many years, was from an old Massachusetts and Virginia family. Still, she relished the rough-and-tumble world of newspaper reporting, where she earned a spot beside her male colleagues as a general assignment reporter at the Hartford Times in the 1940s. Phipps also worked as an advertising copy writer for G. Fox & Co., and in the 1970s and 1980s wrote an antiques column for the Hartford Times, and the Connecticut section of The New York Times.

It was at G. Fox that Phipps met Betty Forbes, with whom she shared a passion for fine New England furnishings. Forbes lived in East Hartford in an 18th century merchant's house, built by her ancestor Timothy Forbes.

Forbes and Phipps began their collaboration with the predecessor of the spring antiques show, the Hartford Antiques Fair, which was held at the armory every fall. This event, operated by the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society of Connecticut, was less restrictive when it came to periods, allowing Sheraton and

grounds of the Essex House Exposition in Springfield.

"We are delighted to be moving back to the center of Hartford, where we started," said Karen DiSaia, the show's manager for the last eight years. "The long tradition of this show, which has stayed true to its original ideals, will continue on as an event that is highly anticipated by dealers and collectors."

As in previous years, this year's event will feature talks by experts like Hosley and Liverant, who will be giving a behind-the-scenes view of the show's 40 years. There is also a special exhibit by the Haddam Historical Society.

"Of course, there are many serious collectors who come to the Spring Antiques Show," Malloy said. "But it's also an education on Americana. And who knows, you may find that one-of-a-kind item that you just can't live without."

The Connecticut Spring Antiques Show is Saturday and Sunday at the State Armory, 360 Broad St., Hartford, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Booth chats include Arthur Liverant "40 Years of the Connecticut Spring Antiques Show," 2 p.m. Saturday, and "Browsing with Bill Hosley," Sunday, 11 a.m. to noon, in which the decorative arts expert will highlight several objects from the show and their stories. At 1 p.m. Sunday, Samuel Herrup, of Samuel Herrup Antiques, will discuss "Connecticut Redware." Admission is \$15. Free parking will be available in the garage adjacent to the armory. For more information visit, www.ctspringantiquesshow.com or call 860-345-2400.

Antiques Show Back Where It Belongs

The Connecticut Spring Antiques Show is coming back to where it belongs — Connecticut.

The show, one of the oldest and best-known antiques fairs in New England, was held for years at the State Armory in Hartford. But after the events of Sept. 11, 2001, public use of the Armory was curtailed. The show moved to the Expo Center. But when that facility closed last year, the show's organizers had to scramble for a venue and moved it to the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Mass.

This embarrassment comes to an end in March, 2013 when the show returns to the Armory.

The show, a project of the Haddam Historical Society, is a favorite of antiques buffs. It features high-quality early American furniture and accessories from some of the country's most respected dealers.

But it isn't just the collectors who will benefit. The show's return to the Armory means there will be more public use for one of the state's great public buildings.

The Armory may never again host track or tennis tournaments, as it once did, but the return of this beloved event is a good sign that people will be visiting it again.

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RICHARD J. GRAZIANO, PUBLISHER
rgraziano@courant.com

CAROLYN LUMSDEN, OPINION EDITOR
clumsden@courant.com

EDITORIALS

Historic Loss

This isn't good. The 39th Annual Connecticut Spring Antiques Show, which opens today, is being held in Massachusetts.

The show, traditionally one of the best venues in the country for early American furniture and accessories, has been held at the Connecticut Expo Center in recent years and would have been again, had that facility not closed late last summer. Karen DiSaia, the show's manager, said organizers wanted to stay in Connecticut and looked at about 30 different venues around the state, from the Oakdale Theatre to the State Armory to prep-school hockey rinks, to no avail, either for scheduling or cost (the reason for ruling out the Connecticut Convention Center).

The Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, home of the Big E, made a good offer in the late fall. With time becoming a factor, the offer was accepted. Proceeds from the show, which this year has dealers from 13 states, support the Haddam Historical Society.

The show will go on at the Big E this year, but then it has to come back where it belongs. "We'd love to find a place in Connecticut," said Ms. DiSaia. And Connecticut would love to have it. Not only does it provide sales tax and rental revenue, it's a perfect fit with the historic New England image this state likes to project to potential tourists.

The show once was held at the State Armory, an excellent place for it. But like other military facilities around the country, the armory was buttoned up after 9/11, which meant no more antiques shows, dog shows, circuses, etc. Other than the inauguration of Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, there've been no non-military events. Some armories around the country have gone back to hosting public events, and it may be time for a second look here. A few events such as the antiques show, and the building will again be self-sustaining.

But if security considerations prevent its use, there's another armory in Hartford that the committee inadvertently overlooked, and that is Foot Guard Hall, the 1888 red-brick Romanesque Revival structure on High Street that was once the center of the city's social life. If the historic building is still sturdy enough, it would seem like an ideal site for the antiques show. But whether there or elsewhere, let's get the show back in Connecticut.

History has an important role in society by illustrating the foundation of democracy and providing context and inspiration. It provides the background for issues which face our community today and helps residents to make informed decisions about their future.

Learning about the community's past can help residents discover an understanding and respect for previous generations and provide an insight to those that came before us and the struggles they faced. History tells us where we came from and how we got to be who we are. This connection can instill a respect in the community and give residents a sense of belonging and direction. Furthermore history allows us to exercise our imaginations and enables us to extend and sharpen our memory. History can open up new perspectives and teach us different views which could help make current and future dialogues more worthwhile and productive. The Haddam Historical Society is an important part of Haddam's cultural economy.

The mission of the Haddam Historical Society is to preserve, collect, interpret and promote the history and heritage of Haddam for present and future generations. The society offers a variety of annual programs, events and activities to share local history with the community and out of town visitors. HHS provides quality educational programs to over 800 school children from the local school district and offers a summer program which highlights life in early 19th century Haddam and attracts students from all over the state. Our community based history programs, which appeal to residents of all ages and focus on specific local events, people or industry, are extremely popular and help develop a strong respect for local history and foster hometown pride. The society has 288 memberships and includes not only Haddam residents but supporters from around the country. The organization receives between 10 and 20 history or genealogy requests per week and frequently hosts visitors from out of town using the library or archives. Our Web site has been called the 'best historical society web site in the state' by Museum Quest and has been used as a model for many other heritage organizations.

Collections are also an important part of the Haddam Historical Society and we continue to collect objects, manuscripts and items related to Haddam and its associated villages. In 2012 we developed our first large scale exhibit to celebrate the town's 350th Anniversary which features images and objects from the archives, some never displayed before. The traveling exhibit will help promote the society's mission and allow residents to explore and celebrate their community's past. The society also collects oral histories which catalogue the stories and memories of past and present residents. Our collections, which continue to grow, have been professionally processed and organized and are available to members, students and scholars for research. However as history continues to expand so do our collections and proper storage space has become a major concern for the organization.

The society's museum, the Thankful Arnold House, is also a vital part of our mission and identity. Visitors can see and learn what it was like to be a middle-class Connecticut River Valley family in the early 19th century and follows four generations of Arnolds through trials and tribulations of everyday life. Located on the Connecticut Women's Heritage Trail, the museum focuses on the Arnold women and what life was like for them as the head of the household. Our landmark garden is a recent addition to Connecticut's Historic Gardens and showcases herbs and vegetables grown in the early 19th century.

The Haddam Historical Society is a vital part of the town of Haddam as the primary depository of artifacts, manuscripts and memories of the community and is a main destination for out of town guests.

<u>Events and Programs</u>	<u>Community Outreach</u>	<u>Education</u>
House Tours History Walks Old House Enthusiasts Group Gardens Tours Haddam Guides Founders' Day Dinner CT Spring Antiques Show 350 th Traveling Exhibit Library Displays History Programs	CT River Valley Heritage/ Get Lost Campaign CT's Historic Gardens CT Women's Heritage Trail CT Humanities Council StEPs Program Local farmers markets, fairs and celebrations. Haddam Bulletin/Haddam Events contributor	3rd grade Community History Tour 3 rd grade History Scavenger Hunt 5 th grade Kites and Cross-Stitch Summer Program, ages 8-12 Home school and Scout Programs Family Programs including gardening, cooking and crafts Adult workshops